

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of July 10-July 14, 2006**

- 1. Adopt-A-Tree Program (Ward 1 and Ward 3):** The Design Committee of Main Street Takoma has launched an "Adopt-A-Tree" program in Old Town and Takoma Junction. Business owners and residents are encouraged to "adopt" trees in the Main Street area right of way. Participants will receive their very own watering bucket and a personalized "adoption" marker in return for a small donation, watering the trees, and picking up litter from now until October. So far, eleven public trees have been adopted. For more information please contact Main Street Takoma at (240) 253-4229 or designcommittee@mainstreettakoma.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 2. Bus Schedule Holder Installation (City Wide):** The City has installed state-of-the-art rotating bus schedule and map holders at 10 of the high ridership bus locations as part of a pilot program to work with Ride-On in encouraging greater use of public transportation. This installation along with the bike rack installations earlier this month, come as part of the Safe Roadways Committee recommended projects for this year. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 3. Planned State Highway Improvements (Wards 1, 3, 2 and 5):** As a follow-up to the Dialogue on Pedestrian Safety Solutions held in May, State Highway met with residents along Carroll Avenue near the intersection with Flower Avenue. A work order was placed to put more striping on the Carroll Avenue between Old Carroll and Flower Avenue to narrow the street and better define it, and requested a sidewalk from Old Carroll to the Sligo Creek bridge. SHA has maintained the underside of the bridge and has a work order to do repairs on the top side of the bridge including sidewalks. The preparatory work for the maintenance has not been completed. State Highway has also issued a work order to install pedestrian paddles on Flower Avenue at Domer. Design on the signals and new crosswalks on Piney Branch at Philadelphia Avenue is scheduled to begin in late fall. City staff is meeting with State Highway to address maintenance issues throughout the City. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 4. Facade Improvement Grant (Wards 1 and Ward 3):** The Main Street Takoma Design Committee Facade Improvement Program has received a contract to administer \$75,000 in matching funds from Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development in matching funds for facade and landscape improvement projects in the Maryland portion of Main Street Takoma (Takoma Junction to Eastern Avenue). This is in addition to the \$15,000 already received from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Together these funds will leverage a minimum of \$180,000 worth of improvements. Property owners and business owners within Main Street Takoma who are interested in maintaining, restoring, painting or upgrading their facades, signage or widow display areas should contact John Hume, Chair of the Main Street Design Committee for further information on how to apply for funding at designcommittee@mainstreettakoma.org or call (240) 253-4229 *(Housing and Community Development)*

5. Landlord-Tenant Affairs:

- Section 8 Will Open Its Waiting List (All Wards): The City has received notification that the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher waiting list will be opened to accept applications from Monday, August 14, 2006 through Friday August 18, 2006. The pre-applications will be available at Libraries, the County Regional Service Centers and online at www.hocmc.org. The Tenant Capacity Building Program community organizers will also be distributing English and Spanish flyers to many of the rental properties in Takoma Park so that tenants are aware of this opportunity.

- Utility Survey Sent to Owners (All Wards): A utility survey was mailed last week to all owners and agents of rental property in Takoma Park. The survey will be used to determine which properties will be eligible to charge a utility surcharge to tenants, should Council adopt an ordinance granting a utility surcharge. Surcharges, if adopted, would apply to only those properties where the cost of a utility (gas or electricity) is included in the rent. The deadline for filing this survey is July 28, 2006.

- Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 4): Tenants residing at 112 Lee Avenue, a 15 unit rental property, have received a notice that the property is under contract for sale for \$2,200,000. Letters will be sent to all tenants informing them of their rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase law. Additionally, the community organizers will visit the property next week to determine the interest of the tenants to meet to discuss their rights under the law. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. **Library Public Reception:** A public reception for friends and fans of departing Children's Services Coordinator Jillian Hershberger will be held in the Azalea Room of the Community Center on Monday July 24th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. *(Library)*

7. **"Come Share Our Campfire!":** A special Summer Quest program for all is being planned by future Children's Coordinator Karen MacPherson, and will be held in the Children's Room on Tuesday, July 18th at 7:00 PM. *(Library)*

8. **Golf Tournament:** The 5th Annual Mike Morrissey Mulligan Madness charity golf tournament will be held Monday October 16 at the Redgate Golf Course in Rockville beginning at 9:00 AM. All proceeds from these tournaments benefit the Takoma Park Library. In the past four years, more than \$15,000 has funded computers, books and programs for children. This year we are asking for supporters to sponsor Library staffers Gene Miller and Dave Burbank to play in the tournament for \$75 each. If you would like to be a sponsor or a player, contact Ellen Robbins at the Library for details. *(Library)*

9. **City Manager's Mother Loses Fight with Cancer:** It is with sadness that we report the passing of Shirley Bruning Burns, the mother of City Manager Barbara Burns Matthews. Our sympathies are with Barb and her family at this time. Condolences may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Milton and Barb Matthews, 1253 Lamplighter Way, Reston, VA 20194. Barb plans to return to work on July 24; Deputy Manager Wayne Hobbs is Acting City Manager until that time. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

10. CSAFE:

- Community Organizer, Gretchen Hilburger, is working with Officer Tina Smith to organize a National Night Out event outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue (Ward 6). The event will be held on August 1, 2006 from 6pm - 9pm. Any community group planning a National Night Out program to encourage community attention for crime prevention should contact the Community Policing team at 301/891-7142 to secure crime prevention materials and possible assistance.

- CSAFE Program Director, Mary Kendall, has been actively participating in the Commission on the Takoma Langley Crossroads Development, the HEAT Team and with A/Chief Coursey and the CSAFE Oversight Committee. A/Chief Coursey has been designated as the TP staff point of contact on the SafeTakoma project, which will be patterned after the CSAFE program, but will be working along the border areas with DC. *(Police)*

11. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 2, 3, 4, and 6): This week 65 stops were made, with Maple and New Hampshire Avenues as the primary focus. *(Police)*

12. Hospital Bomb Threat (Ward 5): In addition to the assistance in the form of seven explosive detection canine units from NIH, Metro Transit and Metropolitan (DC) police, Takoma Park was assisted by Montgomery County Police in limiting access to the Washington Adventist Hospital during the Wednesday evening incident in which a bomb threat was made against the hospital. Investigation into the incident is on-going. *(Police)*

13. Office Changes: Operations Division equipment and offices have been temporarily moved out of the basement area and into the two trailers behind and beside the building, while some renovation repairs are made within their regular spaces. The work is expected to take about a month to complete. Access to police services will be unaffected, and here at the building the public will still contact the department through the lower level front lobby. Sgt. Gilbert and Cpl. Smith will be working out of the Council Chambers Conference Room for this period. *(Police)*